

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 2 and 7. Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, and 17. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method for generating ~~a business an~~ e-mail address of a person for whom e-mail address information is missing comprising the steps of:
 - providing a database storing publicly available information regarding people from computer systems connected to a computer network, the database including for each person at least a name of the person and a name of a respective ~~employer for~~ organization with which the person is currently ~~employed~~ associated; and
 - using digital processor means coupled to the database, automatically:
 - obtaining a working e-mail address to the respective organization, the working e-mail address not being the e-mail address of a subject person;
 - deducing from the working e-mail address, format of e-mail addresses to the respective organization;
 - using the deduced information, constructing potential e-mail addresses for the subject person (i) ~~deducing or interpolating potential e-mail addresses of a subject person~~ named in the database but for whom e-mail address information is missing from the database, the potential e-mail addresses being with respect to a respective organization named in the database for the subject person[[,]]; and
 - (ii) verifying ~~the each~~ potential e-mail ~~addresses~~ address by sending test e-mail messages using the potential e-mail addresses to an e-mail server to determine a response of the e-mail server to the test email messages.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in Claim [[2]] 1 further comprising the step of using predefined common email address formats, constructing potential email addresses for the subject person.

4. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the step of providing a database includes using crawler means, automatically extracting information regarding people and/or organizations from sites of a global computer network and storing the extracted information in the database, such that the database is formed by automated means.
5. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 4 wherein the step of using crawler means includes employing a multiplicity of crawlers under control of a distributor.
6. (Currently Amended) A system for generating ~~a business an~~ e-mail address of a person for whom e-mail address information is missing comprising:
 - a database storing publicly available information regarding people from computer systems connected to a computer network, the database including for each person at least a name of the person and a name of a respective ~~employer for~~ organization with which the person is currently ~~employed~~ associated; and
 - digital processor means coupled to the database for automatically:
 - obtaining a working e-mail address to the respective organization, the working e-mail address not being the e-mail address of a subject person;
 - deducing from the working e-mail address, format of e-mail addresses to the respective organization;
 - using the deduced information, constructing potential e-mail addresses for the subject person (i) ~~deducing or interpolating potential e-mail addresses of a subject person~~ named in the database but for whom e-mail address information is missing, the potential e-mail addresses being with respect to a respective organization named in the database for the subject person[.,,]; and
 - (ii) verifying ~~the each~~ potential e-mail ~~addresses~~ address by sending test e-mail messages using the potential e-mail addresses to an e-mail server to determine a response of the e-mail server to the test email messages.
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A system as ~~claims~~ claimed in Claim ~~[[7]]~~ 6 wherein the digital processor means utilizes predefined common email address formats to further construct potential email addresses for the subject person.
9. (Original) A system as claimed in Claim 6 wherein the database is computer generated from crawler means automatically extracting information regarding people and/or organizations from sites of a global computer network and storing the extracted information in the database, such that the database is formed by automated means.
10. (Original) A system as claimed in Claim 9 wherein the crawler means includes plural crawlers under control of a distributor.
11. (Currently Amended) A computer automated system for mining from a global computer network information on people and organizations comprising:
 - a plurality of automated crawlers for traversing sites of a global computer network and retrieving pages that contain information of interest;
 - a distributor coupled to the crawlers for controlling crawler processing;
 - an extractor responsive to the crawler retrieved pages and extracting information about people and organizations therefrom, the extracted information being stored in a database, the database storing information about different people in different respective records;
 - an integrator coupled to the database for ~~combining~~ merging two records of potentially a same person into one record if the person's name is the same in the two records and one of organization name and title is the same in the two records; and
 - a post-processor coupled to the database for analyzing connected pieces of information in the database and interpolating missing information therefrom.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the integrator further considers statistical rarity of title and person's name in determining whether to combine the two records.

14. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the post-processor constructs and verifies an email address of a subject person named in the database, the email address being with respect to respective organization named in the database for the subject person.
15. (Previously Presented) A system as claimed in Claim 14 wherein the postprocessor constructs and verifies the email address for the subject person by:
 - obtaining a working e-mail address to the respective organization, the working e-mail address not being the e-mail address of the subject person;
 - deducing from the working e-mail address, format of e-mail addresses to the respective organization;
 - using the deduced information, constructing potential e-mail addresses for the subject person; and
 - verifying each constructed potential e-mail address by testing each, such that at least one verified constructed potential e-mail address provides a business e-mail address of the subject person.
16. (Original) A system as claims in Claim 15 wherein the post-processor further utilized predefined common email address formats to construct potential email addresses for the subject person.
17. (Currently Amended) A method for mining, from a global computer network, information on people and organizations, comprising the computer implemented steps of:
 - using a plurality of crawlers, traversing sites of a global computer network and retrieving pages that contain information of interest;
 - controlling the crawlers with a distributor;
 - extracting from the retrieved pages information about people and/or organizations;
 - storing the extracted information in a database, the database storing information about different people in different respective records;

comparing the name of a person indicated in a first record with the name of a person indicated in a second record;

determining whether another two separate pieces of information between the first and second records are reasonably the same if the name comparing results in a match;

~~combining~~ merging the first and second records into one record when the determining step finds the other two separate pieces of information between the first and second records to be reasonably the same; and

analyzing connected pieces of information in the database and interpolating missing information therefrom for storage in the database.

18. (Cancelled)
19. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the other two separate pieces of information are one of organization name and title.
20. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 19 further comprising the step of considering statistical rarity of title and person's name.
21. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 17 wherein the step of interpolating missing information includes constructing and verifying an email address of a subject person with respect to a respective organization named in the database for the subject person.
22. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 21 wherein the step of constructing and verifying an email address includes:
 - obtaining a working e-mail address to the respective organization, the working e-mail address not being the e-mail address of the subject person;
 - deducing from the working e-mail address, format of e-mail addresses to the respective organization;
 - using the deduced information, constructing potential e-mail addresses for the subject person; and

verifying each constructed potential e-mail address by testing each, such that at least one verified constructed potential e-mail address provides a business e-mail address of the subject person.

23. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 22, further comprising the step of using predefined common email address formats, constructing potential email addresses for the subject person.